Application No.: 10/642,524 Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437 CIPCIPCIPC

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed May 12, 2006 Applicants submit the following remarks.

Examiner has alerted the Applicants that the claimed priority of the present application is not consistent with the claimed priority in U.S. Patent Application No. Patent No. 6,989,032. Although the 10/256,160, now U.S. Applicants have corrected the claim of priority in the present application correctly, unfortunately the claimed priority in U.S. Patent No. 6,989,032 remains with errors. Applicants hereby assert that the claimed priority in the application is, however, now correct. No new matter has been added to the present application as a result of this matter.

In the Official Action, claims 1-8 are provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as claims 1-8 of co-pending application number 10/642,523 and present application are provisionally claims 9-20 of the rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9-20 of co-pending application number 10/642,523. In response to these rejections, Applications hereby submit a Terminal Disclaimer rectifying the situation.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth Official Action have been fully met, in reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: August 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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